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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Art Unit: *SJB*  
Hiroaki OKAMOTO et al. )  
IA No.: PCT/JP99/00393 )  
IA Filed: January 29, 1999 ) Washington, D.C.  
U.S. App. No.: )  
(Not Yet Assigned) )  
National Filing Date: ) August 3, 2000  
(Not Yet Received) )  
For: METHOD OF FORMING... ) Docket No.: OKAMOTO7

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, kindly amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

--14. A safety valve element for a battery according to claim 7, wherein said protection film is a coated film of organic coating.

--15. A safety valve element of a battery according to claim 14, wherein said protecting film is a laminated film of an organic resin film.

--16. A closing plate according to claim 11, wherein said adhering means is laser beam welding.

B/

Sub C/P